

# Dances With Words

---

*By Paulette C. Jordan*

**Awl**-a pointed tool for making holes in wood or hide

*Indians use an awl to cut wood and hide to build homes and make clothing.*

**Peace pipe or sacred pipe**-a highly ornamented ceremonial pipe of the North American Indians

*The chief of the tribe smoked a peace pipe decorated with feathers to celebrate the birth of his son.*

**Sun Dance**-the most famous of all the Indian festivals centered around the sun and lasting up to 12 days in the summer

*The entire Sun Dance ceremony lasted for eight whole days.*

**Buckskin**-animal skin, traditionally used as clothing material by North America Indians

*Most North America Indian clothing was made out of buckskin.*

**Hammock**-a swinging couch or bed made of netting or canvas slung by cords between two supports

*Indians used the hammock as a swing or bed.*

**Maize**-Indian corn

*Maize was one of the most popular vegetables that Indians planted.*

**Karahi or kadhahi**-deep frying pans with handles like a Chinese wok

*Indians cook their most famous dishes in a Karahi frying pan.*

**Moccasin**-a soft leather shoe or boot with no heel

*Most native Indians were admired for the quillwork on their moccasins.*

**Igloo**-a dome-shaped dwelling made from blocks of ice; also called a “snow house”

*Eskimos in Alaska lived in igloos when they were hunting.*

**Tepees**-a Plains Indian conical tent made of skins

*The Plain Indians lived in tepees, which are similar to tents.*

**Tomahawk**-a light ax used as a missile and as a hand weapon

*A tomahawk was used for hunting small game.*

**Hogan**-a dwelling with a log and stick frame covered with mud or sod (occasionally made from stone)

*The Navajo Indians lived in hogans.*

**Totem**-an object serving as the emblem of a family or clan and often as a reminder of its ancestry

*Northwest Indians kept totems to remind them of their ancestors.*

**Wampum**-beads of polished shells strung in strands, belts, or sashes and used for money, ceremonial pledges, and ornaments

*The Woodland Indians used quills to make belts of wampum, which serves as public record for money.*

**Trading post**-a station of a trader or trading company established in a sparsely settled region where one can trade products of local origin

*Indians made their own pottery, clothing, and beaded belts and necklaces to trade at the trading post for products, like pots and pans.*

**Travois**-a simple vehicle used by Plains Indians consisting of two trailing poles serving as shafts and bearing a platform or net for the load

*Plains Indians used their travois to bring home the huge amount of meat they caught after hunting.*

**Warpath**-great anger or hostile action

*After being attacked, the tribe was on the warpath.*

**Tribe**-a group of people or families descended from a common ancestor and forming a community under a chief or leader

*The chief of the Nez Percé tribe was named Chief Joseph.*

**Slip**-thin mixture of fine clay and water applied to the surface of pottery before firing

*The Indian woman decided to add one more slip to the pottery to give it that special touch.*

**Jhulwa**-a jacket

*Some Indians wore a jhulwa made of hide and decorated with beads.*

**Lacrosse**-a game invented and played by Eastern Indians, requiring long-handled rackets and a small ball

*The Eastern Indians invented one of the country's most popular sports called lacrosse.*

**Sign language**-a method of intertribal communication using hand signs

*Because native tribes spoke different languages they had to communicate by using sign language.*

**Warbonnet**-a headdress with different feathers representing feats in battle

*The warbonnet of the Plains Indians was covered with eagle feathers and decorated with quillwork and beadwork.*